

Butler Co. ATC Sited as “New Dimension of Education” During Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The official ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new Butler Co. ATC was held on September 26, 2006 in Morgantown.

Governor Ernie Fletcher, Education Cabinet Secretary Laura Owens, Senator Brett Guthrie, and Representative C.B. Embry, Jr. were all on hand to take part in the festivities.



Photo above right (l to r): Education Cabinet Secretary Laura Owens, Morgantown Mayor Charles Black, Workforce Investment Commissioner Beth Smith, OCTE Executive Director David Billingsley, Governor Ernie Fletcher, Butler Co. ATC Principal Eric Keeling, Butler Co. Superintendent Larry Woods, OCTE Deputy Exec. Dir. Lewis Carter, Representative C.B. Embry, Jr., and Senator Brett Guthrie during ribbon cutting.



Photo at left: Eric Keeling greets Governor Fletcher prior to the ceremony. OCTE Executive Director David Billingsley looks on in the background.



**Above Photo:
Presentation of
Colors by the Butler
Co. High School
Navy Jr. ROTC.**



Photo above: Governor Fletcher talks about the value of technical education during his speech at the ceremony. (From l to r): Butler Co. Superintendent Larry Woods, OCTE Executive Director David Billingsley and Butler Co. ATC Principal Eric Keeling.

“We now have hope for improving our workforce and providing a new dimension for the education of our children,” said *Butler Co. Superintendent Larry Woods*. “Governor Fletcher, Representative C.B. Embry, Jr. and Senator Brett Guthrie were all instrumental in making this facility a reality. Representative Embry made it possible for me to testify before the Subcommittee on Vocational Education in Frankfort to further explain the need for this type of school in our county. Senator Guthrie was the key player in working closely with the Legislative Budget committee and made sure funding remained intact. They were both invaluable during the entire process and we are thankful for their hard work and dedication. Education Cabinet Secretary Laura Owens and Governor Fletcher have done so much in providing new avenues for growth and prosperity. The people of Butler County appreciate the work of everyone involved in this endeavor.”

Photo at right (l to r): Butler Co. Superintendent Larry Woods and Eric Keeling



**Photo above:
OCTE Executive
Director David
Billingsley, ATC
Principal Eric
Keeling,
Education
Cabinet
Secretary Laura
Owens and
Butler Co.
Superintendent
Larry Woods**



Photo (l to r): David Billingsley and Eric Keeling during ceremony.

“This is an exciting time for the KY Tech system of schools, and career and technical education in general. Not only are we opening this new school and two others, our system has just become the first state career and technical educational school system in the nation to receive the coveted Southern Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation. This means that Butler Co. ATC is an accredited school,” said OCTE Executive Director David Billingsley to the audience. “This faculty and staff has done an excellent job of getting this school opened. It is now our mission to be dedicated to providing students with outstanding technical education and skills training. We have the utmost confidence in our people to be able to deliver a quality education to the students of Butler Co.”

During his speech, Butler Co. ATC Principal Eric Keeling asked his staff to stand. He recognized them by saying, “At the onset of this endeavor, our focus was not only to prepare programs for the 2006-07 school year, but also to employ an unparalleled staff. This faculty and staff are passionate about teaching students and are committed to seeing success for each individual.”

Photo at right (l to r): Industrial Maintenance Technology Instructor Tim Hall; Air Conditioning Technology Instructor Brian Eadens; Health Sciences Instructor Rhoda Chism; Automotive Technology Instructor David Tichenor and Carpentry Instructor Terry Baggarly.



Photo at left: Butler Co ATC Leadership Academy students provided tours for guests during the ceremony. From left to right are Marsha Reedy, Whitney Nash, Lindsey Porter, Jared Rife, Casey Amos, Nathan Barks, Clint Belcher, and Meagan White.

Meagan is the daughter of Gerald White, who serves as the school’s maintenance technician.

“Gerald has spent countless hours preparing our school for students,” says Keeling. “He has stepped way beyond his role to get things done and ensure the success of our school. We are proud to have him on our staff.”



Photo at left (l to r): Health Sciences Instructor Rhoda Chism, Senator Brett Guthrie and Eric Keeling.

Photo below (l to r): Representative C.B. Embry, Jr. and Instructor Terry Baggarly during tour of the carpentry program

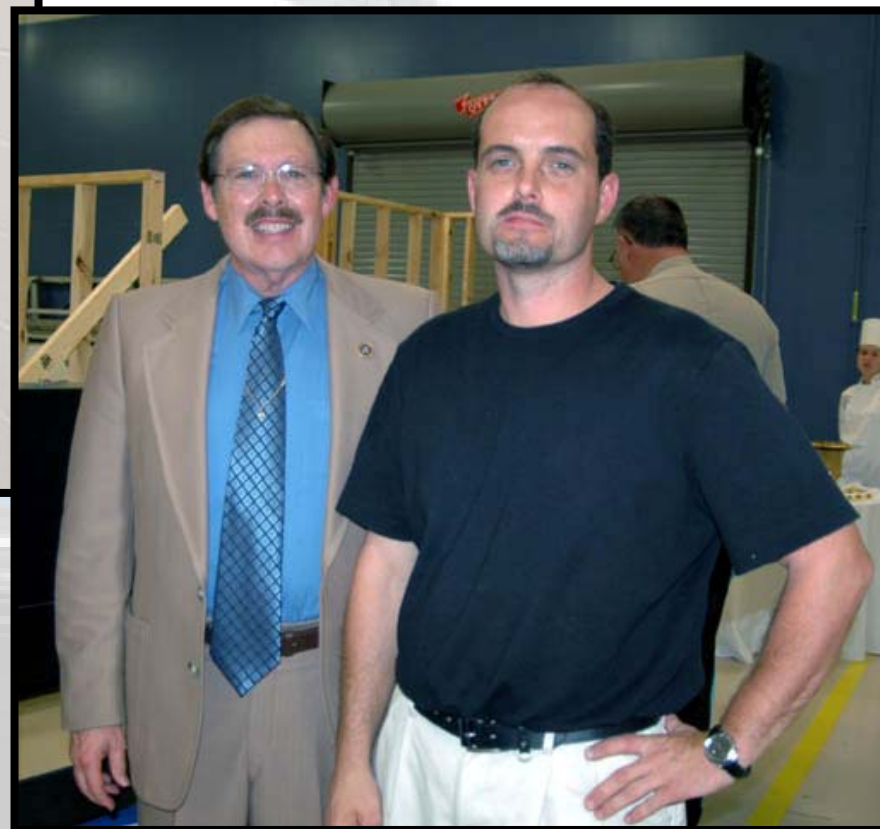


Photo at left: Butler Co. ATC Secretary Regina Elms.

"I'm delighted to be here because providing this type of technical training for our students is a great opportunity in the Butler Co. School system," says Regina. "I put three sons through school in this county and the only way they had to experience any of these types of programs was to be bused to Bowling Green."



Photo at left (l to r): Bowling Green Technical College (BGTC) Dean of Academic Affairs Iris Dotson; Dr. Jimmy Isenberg, Director of Glasgow Health Campus for BGTC; Dr. Bob Bowman, BGTC Dean of Student Affairs; Ron Baldwin, BGTC Applied Technology Division Chair and Co-Op Coordinator; Senator Brett Guthrie, Representative C.B. Embry, Jr. and Department for Workforce Investment Commissioner Beth Smith.

“To accomplish our goals, partnerships must be forged. We are in collaboration with local government to attract new business and industry as well as existing businesses. Our partnership with the Butler Co. High School is a win situation

for our students because Butler Co. HS Principal Michael Elmore and Counselor Brenda Carter have demonstrated a commitment to see our school succeed,” said Keeling. “Another partnership has been with the KCTCS and specifically the Bowling Green Technical College (BGTC). We currently have 69 students enrolled in dual credit courses at the BGTC; which means they are earning college credit while attending our classes.”

Refreshments for the ceremony were prepared by students in the nationally accredited BGTC Culinary Arts Program. Chef Mike Riggs and Chef Lisa Hunt serve as associate professors of the program.

Photo at right: Culinary Arts students pose with the dessert table.



Butler Co. ATC opened its doors to students on August 9, 2006. Principal Eric Keeling and the entire faculty greeted each student as he or she came through the door.



Butler Co. ATC Principal Eric Keeling (top right), Butler Co. H.S. Principal Mike Elmore (top left), and the ATC staff jointly met students as they entered the school for the first time.



Photo (l to r): ATC Principal Eric Keeling and Butler Co. H.S. Principal Mike Emore

“It’s an exciting time for Butler Co. with the opening of this new ATC and I’m honored to be part of such a historical day. Seeing the faces of kids and instructors, and looking at all the opportunities available through this new facility and state of the art equipment - it’s awesome. It’s exciting to see all of this coming together for the first time and knowing that you are part of something worthwhile,” says Keeling.

“It’s great to know that our local school district personnel and legislative body considered career and technical education to be a valuable asset to the educational system in Butler Co. We have an opportunity to have an impact on high school students, adult students and local industry through this area technology center. Our goal is to have 100% placement for all of our students – we will accomplish that through state of the art equipment, cutting edge programs, integration of math and English in our technical programs, developing strong relationships with high school personnel so that we are considered seamless, strong advisory committees, and aligning curriculum with the local technical college to provide a seamless education from the secondary to postsecondary level. My greatest hope is that our school will realize its potential under my direction.”

***Butler Co. ATC Principal
Eric Keeling***



Mr. Baggarly

Construction Careers

Average Wages \$35,000-\$40,000

Job Prospects - Internet

Future Jobs in Construction

Average Current Age of Construction Worker

7,500 Hits on Carpentry

1,000,000 new jobs by 2012

More likely to own business



If your vision is for a year—grow wheat
If your vision is for ten years—grow trees
If your vision is for a life time—grow people
According to Eric Keeling, their plan is to
grow people at the Butler County Area
Technology Center.



Good News Story #177

By: Fran Dundon

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